Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1774 - August 12 2011

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1774 with a release date of Friday, August 12th 2011 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Only a short time left to comment on a proposal to grant almost any ham with an expired license full credit for past examinations; Canadian hams may get a permanent 60 meter allocation; a possible solution to coordinarting digital voice repeaters in Texas and the Sun emits a giant X-Class flare. Find out what this means to your on the air operations on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1774 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RESTRUCTURING: COMMENT PERIOD ON ANCHORAGE VEC LICENSING WAIVER REQUEST CLOSES JUNE 19

There's just a bit more than a week left to voice your opinion to the FCC on a July 6th request by the Anchorage Volunteer Examiner Coordinator. One that would permit individuals whose amateur radio operator licenses have expired and are beyond the grace period for renewal to receive credit for examination elements previously passed. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, reports:

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Section 97.505(a) of the FCC Amateur service requires that the administering VE's give an examinee holding specified license grants or documents credit for certain examination elements. Generally, an examinee must hold an unexpired or expired but within the grace period for renewal license to receive examination credit. As such, and an examinee whose license has been expired for more than two years is not eligible to receive credit for examination elements previously passed.

But the Anchorage VEC's petition requests that that the FCC permit volunteer examiners to give former holders of Technician, General, Advanced, and Extra Class licenses appropriate element credit so that they can obtain new licenses without retaking the examinations. This, regardless of when a license expired.

In making its argument, the Anchorage VEC says that allowing examination credit for individuals who previously held an amateur radio license which has expired and is beyond the grace period for renewal, would allow these individuals to obtain a new license grant at an early date and thereby allow them to again participate in normal amateur radio activities.

The Anchorage group asserts that a waiver of this sort is in the public interest because it would result in the immediate expansion of the pool of experienced operators. Volunteers that would be available in time of national or regional emergency. It also notes that many of the

potential beneficiaries of such a waiver are of advanced years and are interested in prompt resolution of this matter.

The proceeding has been designated as WT Docket 11-130. Comments on it are due no later than August 19th with reply comments due no later than August 29th.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

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Again the proceeding to address is WT Docket 11-130. Comments on it are due by August 19th with reply comments due no later than August 29th. (ARNewsline(tm), FCC)

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PROPAGATION: SUN EMITS X-CLASS FLARE - COULD AFFECT HF PROPAGATION

Space Weather reports that on Tuesday August 9, at 0805 UT, sunspot 1263 produced an X7-class solar flare. Tis is only the third X-flare of new Solar Cycle 24 and the most powerful so far.

The brunt of the explosion was not Earth directed, however what's being described as a minor proton storm was in progress around our planet that could have affected satellites in high-altitude orbits. Also, radiation from flare created waves of ionization in Earth's upper atmosphere, briefly disrupting communications at some Very Low Frequency and High Frequency radio frequencies. What we hams call band outages.

According to Space Weather, images from NASA's Solar and Heliospheric Observatory radioed back images to Earth showed a Coronal Mass Ejection emerging from the blast site on the Sun. Astronomers believe the solar cloud created by this C-M-E will probably miss Earth however they would not rule out a glancing blow from its flank on or about the time this newscast went to air. (Space Weather)

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WORLDBEAT: CANADIAN HAMS MAY GET PERMANENT 60 METER ALLOCATION THIS FALL

Canadian hams could have a permanent 60 meter allocation in the not to distant future. According to a news release by the Canadian national amateur radio society Radio Amateurs of Canada, telecommunications regulator Industry Canada has now informed the society that it responds favorably to its request for frequencies at 5 MHz on a no protection, non-interference basis.

The new spectrum would be included in the schedule of amateur frequencies update to be released for public consideration in the future. Comments will be considered by Industry Canada in preparation for the final version of the new frequency plan. Any new frequencies it contains would become available to Canadian amateurs at the time of

its release. Thus, if all goes as expected, Canadian amateurs may expect to gain access to frequencies at 5 MHz that are basically the same as those in the United States, some time this fall. (RAC)

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WORLDBEAT: RAC FORMS TASK FORCE TO EXEMPT ONTARIO HAMS FROM DISTRACTED DRIVING LAW

Turning to news from around the world, Radio Amateurs of Canada has announced the formation of a task force to seek a permanent exemption for Ontario Amateurs. This from the ban on operating mobile devices in a vehicle under the provinces new Distracted Driving ban scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2013.

The Task Force has already obtained letters of support from groups that it assists ranging from hospitals to communities to served agencies and others. All of the letters indicate that limiting the ability of ham radio operators to provide communications while mobile would not be in the Ontario's best interests.

The Task Force will present the letters as part of its case to Kathleen Wynne who is Ontario's Minister of Transportation. The objective of the Distracted Driving Task Force is to convince the Ontario government that the regulation, as currently written, will actually decrease public safety in that province. (RAC, VE3XT)

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RADIO IN SPACE: CERTIFICATES OFFERED FOR ASSISTING ARISSAT - 1

ARISSat One controllers can also use your assistance to keep track of their new bird as it circles the Earth. That being keeping tabs on the satellites telemetry as it downlinks its condition while on-orbit. And you will get a certificate of appreciation for assisting.

Monitoring the telemetry requires no computer or special programs to decode. It is made up from internal monitoring of certain selected satellite operations that are transmitted in a female voice. This voice data consists of Mission Elapsed Time in minutes, Internal Housekeeping and Control Panel temperature in degrees Centigrade, battery voltage and battery current draw. This information along with who you are, where you are and when you heard the telemetry goes by e-mail to tlmreport (at) arissat1 (dot) org. Those who take part in this telemetry reporting program will receive a certificate in recognition of their contribution to the ARISSat One satellites flight.

Certificates are also available to anyone that receives the voice, digital or Morse code signals signals from ARISSat One. These can be heard using any 2 meter FM transceiver or a scanner radio tuned to 145.950 MHz.

ARISSat One transmits continuously in a round robin format a Voice ID, a greeting from space, voice telemetry, a voice ID and lastly a Slow Scan television image. A Secret password is included in most greetings. If you can catch it, simply e-mail it along with your name,

the date, time, location where you heard the transmission along you're your e-mail address to secretword (at) arissat1 (dot) org to receive the certificate. (ARISSAT)

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SELF POLICING: ACCIDENTAL DOT STATION LOCATED THROUGH GLOBAL INTRUDER WATCH COOPERATION

An unidentified ham in Northern California who inadvertently pushed a keyboard up against his Morse keyer is likely a bit contrite right now. This after the accident wound up producing a stream of dots at 25 words per minute heard world-wide for over a week.

The signal caused what might loosely be called a minor international incident. In fact it caused a global effort beginning in TU Region 3 and eventually involving stations in Region 1 via the Intruder Watch program. It also lead to various posts to DX Clusters and Yahoo groups which eventually resulted in the suspected radio amateur being contacted via the ARRL and being asked to check his station.

Signal reports were first received in New Zealand who's ham radio community heard it and raised the alarm. Others that became involved were hams in Europe, the United States, Afica and Australia. The result was a well coordinated global High Frequency hidden transmitter hunt that resulted in a solid triangulation on the Western United States and eventually right to the front door of the station where the never ending stream of dots were coming from. Once notified, the unwanted signal quickly disappeared from the airwaves. (ZL1GWE, NZART News)

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BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the W7FTX repeater serving Hamilton, Montanna.

(5 sec pause here)

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REPEATER COORDINATION: REFARMING OF SIMPLEX FOR DIGITAL VOICE REPEATERS DEFEATED IN TEXAS NEW PLAN BEING CONSIDERED

A possible solution to a nagging problem that has pitted simplex users against digital repeaters in Texas. Amateur Radio Newslines Don Carlson, KQ6FM, has the details:

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A highly controversial plan by the Texas VHF FM Society that would have allowed +1 Mhz split, 10 kHz spaced narrowband digital relay modes using channels in the 146 and 147 simplex range has been voted down by a 2 to 1 margin. In its place, the Society has agreed to study an

alternative idea submitted by Chris Boone, WB5ITT, to permit narrowband digital duplexed paired systems to use splinter channel pairs on all bands from 2 meters and up.

In the case of Texas, that would mean both 2 meters and 222 MHz which use 20 kHz separation spacing for analog repeater systems would put digital relay devices on the 10 kHz split pairs between them. Likewise, for 70 centimeter UHF operation where the state embraces 25 kHz between analog FM repeaters, digital machines would be placed at the 12.5 kHz points in-between. This same plan would work itself all the way up through all of the bands on which the Texas VHF-FM Society coordinates repeater systems. To help insure that the new plan would work, a minimum 50 mile separation between all new adjacent split channel repeater pairs, analog or digital, would be imposed on all bands.

What this all means is that digital repeaters that have unilaterally set up shop on simplex channels on a temporary basis will be in limbo until mid 2012. This is because in accordance with the Society By-laws regarding changes to the coordination standards in Texas, the WB5ITT proposal was tabled. This gives the Society the time need for the membership to be polled on the idea and then the issue to be voted on at the next summer meeting.

In the meantime, digital repeaters already on the air will remain on their current frequencies but will be expected to move to new channels if the motion passes. That will mean normal 600 kHz input to output separation with non-inverted operation. Until then, no new digital coordination's on simplex frequencies will be allowed since the original proposal to allow these systems onto the simplex channels failed to pass.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM, in Reno.

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If the membership of the Texas VHF-FM Society buys off on the WB5ITT proposal it holds the potential of quieting the furor over digital voice relay systems that has plagued the state for about the past 24 months. It also could set the precedent for the standardized integration of digital voice repeaters in a crowded analog FM world that repeater coordination councils and band planners nationwide have been seeking. At least it's a place to start for those regions that already use 20 KHz spacing between repeaters on the 2 meter band. (ARNewsline(tm))

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ENFORCEMENT: NEW ZEALAND CONVICTION FOR SELLING RADIO JAMMERS

An unidentified New Zealand man has been fined $2000 after being convicted in Porirua District Court of supplying illegal radio jamming transmitters. This following a combined effort between government agencies.

New Zealand's Ministry of Economic Development had filed charges under the Radio Communications Act after Police found the transmitters during

a house search for drugs. At the hearing the man admitted supplying the radio jammers and also to transmitting outside the terms of his radio license. (Southgate)

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ENFORCEMENT: BOSS FORCED TO PAY FORMER EMPLOYEE FOR INSULTS MADE OVER CB

If you live in Australia and make disparaging comments about someone over a CB radio, it could cost you big bucks. That's just what has happened down-under as we hear from WIA News reporter Graham Kemp, VK4BB:

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A southeast Queensland-based security worker who was called insulting names on CB radio has won a $5000 payout from her former boss.

The woman from Eagleby, south of Brisbane, hailed from the former Yugoslavia and complained to the former Anti-Discrimination Commission over offensive comments allegedly made by a security business owner.

The 65-year-old woman's complaint shone a light on the abusive culture of some UHF/CB radio transmissions, with one witness admitting he had even encouraged his four-year-old daughter to use racially loaded terms.

The tribunal was told the security firm had previously employed the complainant and her son, but fell out with the son in 2008 prior to the alleged abuse.

"The culture of the CB radio conversations between the parties, witnesses and other users is carried out in an abusive tone with racially vilifying and sexually harassing words and connotations," the tribunal said.

Im Graham Kemp, VK4BB, of the WIA News reporting for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

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You can read more about this interesting court finding on line in the Brisbane Times at tinyurl.com/vk-cb-fine. (WIA News)

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HAM RADIO READING: THE CHINESE CONNECTION - A CQ EDITORIAL

The Chinese Connection is the title of a thought provoking editorial dealing with the emergence of ham radio gear made in China here in the United States marketplace. This at prices considerably lower than similar radios from Japan and other manufacturing nations.

Authored by CQ Magazine editor Rich Moseson, W2VU, the editorial takes

a look back in time to when radio gear from Japan first emerged in the domestic U-S marketplace some 40 years ago and eventually lead to the stalwarts of the time such as Hallicrafters, E.F. Johnson, National Radio and others eventually leaving the ham radio marketplace. The article also asks the paradoxical question as to whether this might be happening again and if the Japanese ham radio manufacturing community will adapt to meet this new challenge. It also notes that this is all happening at a time when the domestic U-S ham radio manufacturing industry is making a major comeback.

The Chinese Connection is an excellent read for any ham that has an interest in the economics of the amateur radio supply industry and how it affects them. You will find it on page 8 of the August issue of CQ Magazine. (CQ)

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HAM HAPPENINGS: CELEBRATING THE 80th ANNIVERSARY OF THE MIDLANDS ARS

On the social scene, the United Kingdom's Midland Amateur Radio Society plans to celebrate its 80th anniversary by hold an open house day on September 24th from 10am to 4pm local time. Plans are for displays of historic photographs, QSL cards, the original 1931 minutes books and the awards the ckub has received. There will also be refreshments, an opportunity to meet the groups training staff, and the chance to operate club station GB8OTH. More information on the society, which is based in Birmingham, in the U-K can be found on the club web site at www (dot) radioclubs (dot) net/mars. (GB2RS)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: DR. LARRY PRICE W4RA NAMED ARRL PRESIDENT EMERITUS

Some names in the news. First some words of congratulations to Dr. Larry Price, W4RA, on his being named ARRL President Emeritus.

Dr. Price served as the League's President from 1984 to 1992 and previous to that as a Vice Director, Director and Vice President of the ARRL Board of Directors. He also served for 10 years as Secretary of the International Amateur Radio Union and another 10 years as that organization's President. In fact, Dr. Price continues to serve the IARU as an expert consultant and has been recognized as President Emeritus by the IARU's Administrative Council.

The naming of W4RA as ARRL President Emeritus was made in celebration of his ongoing dedication to the Amateur Radio Service and in recognition of his 60th anniversary as a radio amateur. (ARRL)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: WD5K BECOMES 5th HAM TO RECEIVE FRED FISH MEMORIAL AWARD

And congratulations also to Thomas Johnson, WD5K, of Dallas, Texas. This for becoming only the fifth radio amateur earning to earn the ARRL Fred Fish Memorial Award.

The Fred Fish Memorial Award was created in honor of the late Fred Fish, W5FF, who was the first amateur to have worked and confirmed all 488 Maidenhead grid squares in the 48 contiguous United States on 6 Meters. The award is given to any amateur who can duplicate this feat. Johnson application was reviewed and approved by ARRL on July 28th. (ARRL)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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RADIO AND SPACE: ACMA EXTENDS RADIO QUIET ZONE TO PROTECT RADIO ASTRONOMY DOWN-UNDER

The Australian Communications and Media Authority has enhanced the radio quiet protections for the Mid West Radio Quiet Zone or RQZ in remote Western Australia. Ewan MacLeod, VK4ERM, of the WIA News is here with the details:

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The RQZ was established in 2005 to provide an environment that protects highly sensitive equipment used for radio astronomy from unwanted radio-communications signals. These arrangements protect the radio telescopes currently in place at the Murchison Radioastronomy Observatory, as well as those proposed in the Australian-New Zealand bid to host the Square Kilometre Array or SKA.

"A clear regulatory framework to support radio quiet arrangements will further assist Australia to create the world's best radio astronomy facility,' said ACMA Chairman, Chris Chapman. `This will provide a platform that should be ideal for future radioastronomy projects, including the $1.5 billion SKA project."

Mr Chapman said the new protection measures provide greater clarity and certainty to the arrangements that protect radioastronomy services in the RQZ.

"The new measures continue to provide for radio quiet while supporting the use of spectrum by other users and placing the lowest feasible burden on industry in the region,' said Mr Chapman. Mr Chapman said the new protection measures will not significantly change the nature of spectrum access and radio quiet arrangements in the Mid West RQZ.

"This will enhance protection for the RQZ by upgrading the existing statements of ACMA administrative practice to more formal regulation,"

Mr Chapman said.

The introduction of the enhanced protections for the RQZ follows a very extensive consultation process in which the ACMA sought the views of interested stakeholders."

This is Ewan VK4ERM

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The Australian Communications and Media Authority has also released a Response to Submissions paper. It outlines the regulatory agency's rationale behind its decision and the final package of measures it has instituted to protect radio astronomy resources down-under. (WIA News)

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RADIO IN SPACE: MARS ROVER OPPORTUNITY ORDERED BY RADIO TO SPIRIT POINT

NASA's Mars Exploration Rover Opportunity will revisit the rim of Endeavour crater on Mars, where its rover twin Spirit finished its 6-year-long mission in May.

The rover scientific research vehicles had completed their three-month prime missions on Mars in April 2004. Both went on to extended missions and in the process each made important discoveries about the environment on ancient Mars which suggested the possibility for microbial life on the red planet.

Driving commands sent by radio to Opportunity directed the rover to make its final push toward Endeavour crater. This is a 14-mile-wide depression near the Martian equator could be the research vehicle's final destination.

The target for Opportunity is a site on the rim of the Endeavour crater named Spirit Point. It was given that designation by the Mars Rover Controllers in honor of the Opportunity's lost twin. Opportunity should be at that location and beaming signals back to Earth by the time this newscast goes to air. (NASA, other news reports)

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WORLDBEAT: NEW WSJT EME RECORD CLAIMED

What's believed to be a new digital EME record on 2 meters was set at 20:20 UTC on August 3rd. This when Allan Saul, ZS1LS, in Sunset Beach, South Africa and Jeremy Alexander, W7EME, in operating portable KH6 in Hawaii established a new South African Radio League record of 18,383 Kilometers between the to terrestrial stations.

The contact was established using WSJT during a small window close to moonset in South Africa and only 7 degrees of moonrise in Hawaii. Signal reports varied between minus 26 dB and minus 31 dB below S zero. Signals that would not be audible to the human ear but which are decodable using WSJT. .

For those who never have tried it, WSJT is a digital noise reduction program used for weak-signal radio communication written by Joe Taylor, K1JT. The digital signal processing techniques in WSJT make it substantially easier for radio amateurs to enjoy esoteric propagation modes, such as high speed meteor scatter and moon bounce to name only two. (SARL, Southgate)

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DX

In DX, Bill Moore, N1CL, at the ARRL DXCC desk, the just concluding ST0R operation has been approved for DXCC credit. This means you can file cards for this one via the usual means of accreditation.

TM5SM will be on the air from the Saint Marcouf Islands through August 15th. Operations will use CW, SSB and RTTY on 80 through 10 meters. QSL via F5RJM either direct or via the bureau.

WA8LOW and four other operators will be active stroke KH8 from American Samoa, until the 17th of August. The group is running four high power stations on 160 to 6 meters using all modes. QSL via WA8LOW.

IZ2DPX will be active from stroke CT9 from Madeira Island on all of the High Frequemcy bands and possibly 6 meters. He will be there through August 21st. QSL via bureau or direct to IK2DUW.

Last, but by no means least, EA3PT is operating portable EA6 from Menorca through August 21st. Operation is SSB only holiday style using SSB only on 40 through 10 meters for at least an hour a day. QSL via Logbook of the World or direct via his home call.

(Above from various DX sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: SWEDISH MAN TRIED TO BUILD A NUCLEAR REACTOR IN HIS KITCHEN

And finally this week, from the truth is stranger than fiction file comes the story of a Swedish man who was arrested after trying to split atoms in his kitchen. No, we are not kidding as we hear from Amateur Radio Newsline's producer Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF:

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News reports say that Richard Handl was only doing it as a hobby. Trying to build a nuclear reactor, that is.

In an interview, Handl told the media that he had the radioactive elements radium, americium and uranium in his apartment in southern Sweden. That he said was when police showed up and arrested him on charges of unauthorized possession of nuclear material.

The 31-year-old Handl said he had tried for months to set up a nuclear

reactor at home and kept a blog about his experiments. He even described how he created a small meltdown on his stove.

Only later did he realize it might not be legal and sent a question to Sweden's Radiation Authority. That appeared to be his downfall. This is because instead of a response by letter or telephone, his information request was answered by an unexpected visit by the police.

Handl went on to say that he has always been interested in physics and chemistry, adding he just wanted to see if it's possible to split atoms at home. Although he says the police didn't detect dangerous levels of radiation in his apartment, Handl now admits that the project might not have been not such a good idea after all. And if I might editorialize a bit: Neither do we.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in the City of Angels.

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The news reports say that the raid on Handl's residence took place in late July, but authorities have refused to comment. If convicted, Handl could face fines or up to two years in prison.

And folks, you just can't make these things up. (GeekNewz, Xydo, others)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is Newsline (at) arnewsline (dot) org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), 28197 Robin Avenue, Santa Clarita California, 91350

Before we go, a reminder that this coming September 11th will be the 10th anniversary of the al-Queda backed terrorist attacks on September 11th of 2001. Attacks that felled the two World Trade Center tower buildings in New York City and damaged the Pentagon when radical Moslem extremists high-jacked four United States flag carrier jetliners and crashed them into the two structures and killing over 3000 American citizens.

Over the years there have been several ham radio operations in remembrance of those whose lives were lost in this senseless and wanton carnage. With this being the first decade anniversary of the September 11th, 2001 tragedy, we are trying to compile a list of radio clubs and individuals who are planning any form of ham radio memorial operation to honor those whose lives were lost that day.

Already a group in Pennsylvania and another in New York City are

planning on-the-air commemorative operations. If you of any others please drop us an e-mail to newsline at arnewsline dot org and let us know all of the details. We in turn will list as many as we can on our website at www.arnewsline.org starting this week.

Those whose lives were lost on 911 deserve to be remembered. We will do our part by providing web-space to list ham radio commemorative activities. It's up to you to do the rest.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Davis, W2JKD, in Vero Beach, Florida, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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